CALCUTTA,
1st *February*, 1893.

DEAR SIR,—

As illustrating the dangers to which underground wires are exposed in India, I send you a photograph showing how a root of grass has grown right through a piece of india-rubber cable core (Hooper's Core).

It happened in this way. The piece of core in question, after being treated with a composition said to be a preservative

against white ants, was buried, unprotected by any armour, in soft damp soil at Calcutta for six months to see what happened. On the piece of core being dug up, the grass was found to have grown through it as shown in the photograph.

What at first sight appears to be an impossible performance on the part of grass seems less so when you come to examine

the hard, sharp, needle-like points which characterise the roots of this species of grass. I enclose some of them for inspection.

Yours faithfully,

P. V. LUKE, M.I.E.E.

To the SECRETARY,
INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERS.